

REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 19, 2011, for the above-referenced application. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 4, 6, 7, 15 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,614,422 to Rafii, et al. (hereinafter "Rafii") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,263,547 to Kloba (hereinafter "Kloba") and further in view of U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2006/0092178 A1 to Tanguay, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Tanguay") is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the comments below. Further the rejection of claim 12, 13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rafii in view of Fong, Kloba, Tanguay and further in view of U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2002/0075240 to Lieberman (hereinafter "Lieberman") is also hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the comments below.

Tanguay, being a newly cited reference, is a published patent application having an effective prior art date of October 29, 2004 (its filing date) with respect to the present application. The present application is a US nationalized application from PCT/JP2004/018838 filed December 16, 2004, which claims priority to four Japanese priority applications: (1) JP 2004-007834 filed January 15, 2004; (2) JP 2004-012974 filed January 21, 2004; (3) JP 2004-052646 filed February 27, 2004; and (4) JP 2004-056095 filed March 1, 2004. All priority requirements have been met for claiming priority to these applications, and the correct priority to these application is listed in the Filing Receipt of the present application. All of the above-noted JP priority dates antedate the effective prior date (October 29, 2004) of the Tanguay reference.

Tanguay is cited by the Office Action as disclosing features corresponding to Applicants' recited features of *wherein at least one of the plurality of kinds of mutually different recognition functions is a handwritten input recognition function that detects movements of the operation object corresponding to a handwriting motion of a user, and wherein, for the designated recognition function being the handwritten input recognition function, the at least part of the selected operation-plane image is changed in a manner that tracks the handwriting motion*, that is recited, in some form in all of Applicant's independent claims.

Applicant directs attention to Applicant's priority application (3) JP 2004-052646 filed February 27, 2004. Applicant has attached hereto a machine translation of this priority document (APPENDIX A), obtained from the Japanese Patent Office, and refer, for example, specifically to Figures 14 and 15 of JP 2004-052646 (compare to Figures 22 and 23 of the present US application) and to paragraphs [0036] - [0039] thereof supporting Applicant's above-recited features concerning a handwritten input recognition function. Accordingly, Applicant has a priority date of *at least* February 27, 2004, for the presently-recited claims. This priority date antedates the Tanguay prior art date (October 29, 2004).

Accordingly, since Applicant's priority date antedates the Tanguay prior art date, Applicant respectfully submits that the Tanguay reference be removed as applied against the presently claims and any rejections thereover be withdrawn.

Applicant refers to the prior Response filed by Applicant on February 3, 2011, discussing the omission of the above-noted feature, presently-recited by Applicant, from the references

Rafii, Fong, Kloba and Liberman. It is also noted that the Final Office Action has also noted that the above-noted feature is not contained in Rafii, Fong, Kloba or Liberman (see, e.g., page 9 of the Final Office Action).

Accordingly, with the withdrawal of Tanguay, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art, taken alone or in any combination, do not teach or fairly suggest at least the above-noted features as recited by Applicant. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Date: July 15, 2011

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